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January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

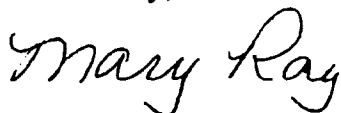
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It's about time that the Department of Justice has decided to end their crusade against Microsoft. Finally, the average person will stop worrying about this and Microsoft can get on to making better products. Of course, making a better product is what got them here in the first place.

It's because Microsoft simply makes a better product than their competitors that put them where they are, not because they're a monopoly. Companies should not be punished for doing well, especially not hardworking American companies like Microsoft that have such a large impact not only on our economy, but on the way the average person lives his or her life. The settlement maintains the need for a strong position in the IT market for Microsoft, and does so without the anticompetitive secrets endemic to owning an operating system and corresponding applications. The settlement publicizes these secrets and thus gives more information to software companies to develop corresponding software.

I think this whole thing with Microsoft should never have gotten started in the first place, but I am happy that it's finally over. I only hope that you will be able to use your influence to sway the rest of the states that continue to try and harass Microsoft just to get their own pound of flesh.

Sincerely,



Mary Ray